

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) A water separation device comprising

a tubular member having a closed lower end and an upper end
having an inlet for water dispersion organic solvent; [[,]]

an outer tube having a discharge outlet for the organic solvent after
separation of water in a lower portion thereof and an air vent hole in an upper
portion thereof, said tubular member being positioned within said outer tube;

a water separation membrane filter that is hydrophobic and insoluble
by organic solvent provided on a rising surface between said lower end and said
upper end of said tubular member, and whereby a water dispersion organic solvent
may be filtrated by said water separation membrane filter at normal pressure to
thereby separate water.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The water separation device according to Claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein the upper end of the tubular member is formed ~~[[has]]~~ to have a large diameter, and said tubular member is fitted in said outer tube and stopped at the upper end of the outer tube at said large diameter portion.

5. (Currently Amended) The water separation device according to Claims 1 ~~[[to]]~~ or 4, wherein said tubular member has a side surface or bottom surface formed as a slope toward the lower end which converges on an extreme end, and said water separation membrane is secured to an opening formed in said slope.

6. (Withdrawn) The water separation device according to ~~Claim~~ 5, wherein a plurality of said outer tubes are formed as recesses in a plate at intervals, and said tubular member is fitted in said outer tubes.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The water separation device according to Claim ~~[[7]]~~ 1, wherein said membrane filter is made of ~~Teflon (Registered Trademark)~~ tetrafluoroethylene.

9. (Previously Presented) The water separation device according to Claim 8, wherein the pore size of said membrane filter is 0.1 to 2 μm .

10. (Currently Amended) The water separation device according to Claim 9, wherein said tubular member and said outer tube are formed of metal, glass or plastics.

11. (Withdrawn) A water separation method for filtrating water dispersion organic solvent by a water separation membrane provided on a rising surface between a lower end and an upper end of a tubular member and thereby separating water.

12. (Withdrawn) The water separation method according to Claim 11, comprising forming said tubular member so that a lower end thereof is closed and an inlet for water dispersion organic solvent is provided at an upper part, positioning the tubular member within an outer tube having a sample discharge outlet at the lower part, and passing the organic solvent after separation of water through from the inside to the outside of said tubular member.

13. (Withdrawn) The water separation method according to Claim 12, comprising forming a side surface or bottom surface on said tubular member as sloping toward the lower end which converges on an extreme end, and securing said water separation membrane to an opening formed in said slope.

14. (Withdrawn) The water separation method according to Claim 11, wherein said water separation organic solvent is a reaction liquid obtained from an organic chemical reaction or a processed liquid after reaction.